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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Belgrade Daily Attacks Bulgarian Press

Belgrade's influential daily, Borba, has taken strong exception to Bulgarian reporting of Yugoslavia's student unrest. According to the paper, Sofia reported at length on the riots and student demands but devoted only a few lines of type to Tito's T.V. response to the disorder and to the directives of the League of Yugoslav Communists for dealing with the student demands. Moreover, taking a broader swipe at the Bulgarians, Borba accused the Sofia press of flagrant bias in reporting events in Yugoslavia, thereby leaving the Bulgarian public ignorant of the true situation in Yugoslavia today.

Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations have been cool since tempers flared earlier this year over the Macedonian issue. Apparently it will be some time before relations improve.

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Hungarian Foreign Ministry Shifts

First Deputy Foreign Minister Peter Mod and Deputy Minister Karoly Szarka were relieved of their posts on 26 June and assigned to "new diplomatic positions." Replacing them are former chief of the foreign affairs department of the central committee, Frigyes Puja, and Ambassador Vencel Hazi respectively.

The changes probably are a consequence of the dropping of Puja from his central committee job at the Hungarian party plenum last week, a position which he has held since December 1963. It may in fact reflect a downgrading of the reconstructed Stalinist, now loyal to Kadar. Puja had a twelve year career in the Foreign Ministry prior to being moved to the central committee. He has been described as a "difficult trouble-maker" with an unpleasant personality. With Hungary now playing the host for preparations for this fall's international Communist conference, it is possible that he was considered less troublesome in the Foreign Ministry than in the party apparatus.

Both the outgoing Mod and Szarka are veterans, the latter having been in the ministry since 1956. Hagi, who has up to now been chief of the ministry's Western European and American department, told US Embassy officers on 27 June, that Mod will be Hungary's new ambassador in France, while Szarka will be assigned to Cairo.

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Since the party runs the Foreign Ministry in Hungary, Puja's replacement in the central committee slot will be more important for Budapest's foreign policy than the currently announced ministry changes.

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Yugoslavia Tightens Trade Restrictions

Yugoslav authorities have enacted trade regulations restricting imports and are also considering indirect export subsidies in the form of tax rebates to correct their trade imbalance. The new regulations cover a large number of consumer goods and equipment which may now enter Yugoslavia only with specific permission from the Secretariat for Foreign Trade. In addition, higher tariff rates were reportedly scheduled to go into effect this month.

Yugoslavia's trade imbalance soared in 1967 after Belgrade drastically lowered its tariffs. Many Yugoslav industries were not able to compete effectively with the influx of foreign goods. In addition, a major problem developed for Belgrade when foreign markets failed to reciprocate with lower tariffs. While Yugoslavia still hopes to retain a liberal trade policy and eventually conclude a trade agreement with the Common Market, Belgrade has now taken another step backward from the objectives of its economic reform.

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Danny the Red Working for CIA?

Danny the Red is getting it from all sides--even the Bulgarians. A 22 June article in the Bulgarian youth paper described Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the French student leader, as an anarchist "German Jew" in a class with Maoists and Trotskyites, and suggested that he may be taking orders from the Zionists in the employ of the West German government and the CIA. This exceptionally sharp attack is probably intended to warn Bulgarian youth to stay clear of such rabble rousers and also to serve notice to Cohn-Bendit that he is distinctly unwelcome at the upcoming World Youth Festival in Sofia.

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